

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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- 64. (cancelled)
- 65. (cancelled)
- 66. (new) Insulating glass panel in which two separate glass panes are kept at a distance by a spacer formed from a section bar, which has an inner surface, an outer surface and two flanks, a drying agent is provided in combination with

the spacer, and a gap is provided on both sides of the spacer between the spacer and the two glass panes which gap is sealed by a primary sealing compound that adheres to the spacer and to the glass panes, wherein a compound, which contains a drying agent, is arranged beside the primary sealing compound that seals the two gaps, on the side of the spacer, hereinafter also described as the inside, that faces the inner surface of the insulating glass panel, the section bar having a hollow section.

67. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 1, wherein the compound, which contains the drying agent, is arranged adjacent the primary sealing compound that seals the two gaps, on the side of the spacer facing the inner space of the insulating glass panel so that it covers the inside to the extent the latter is not already covered by the primary sealing compound.
68. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the compound adheres to the spacer.
69. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein compound adheres to the primary sealing compound.
70. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the compound containing the drying agent is positively interlocked with the spacer.
71. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 70, wherein the positive connection between the compound containing the drying agent and the spacer exists at least at the transition from the inside to the flanks of the spacer.
72. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 70, wherein for forming the positive connection the section bar has an undercut configuration over its full length.
73. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 72, wherein the positive connection between the spacer and the compound containing the drying agent is configured in the way of a dovetail connection.

74. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the primary sealing compound in the gap between the flanks and the glass panes is free from drying agent or contains a lesser concentration of drying agent than the compound containing a drying agent, present on the inside of the spacer facing the inner space of the insulating glass panel.
75. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein a curable secondary sealing compound is provided which connects the two glass panes directly or indirectly with the spacer in an area closer to the outside than the primary sealing compound, and that produces a durable and stable bond between the glass panes.
76. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 75, wherein two separate ropes of the secondary sealing compound are provided, the one rope of which connects one glass pane while the other rope connects the other glass pane with the spacer.
77. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 76, wherein the secondary sealing compound is provided only in the gap between the flanks of the spacer and the respective glass pane facing the flank.
78. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 76, wherein the flanks have a concave outer surface in cross-section.
79. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 78, wherein the concave outer surface is delimited on both sides by a flat surface area, the primary sealing compound extending to one of the flat surface areas adjacent the inside of the spacer.
80. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the section bar consists of a plastic material.
81. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the section bar has a rectangular cross-section.

82. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 81, wherein the width of the section bar is greater than its height.
83. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 80, wherein the section bar has a box section.
84. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the section bar is open in places on its inside, the openings being covered by the compound containing the drying agent:
85. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, in which at least one cross bar is arranged and fixed on the spacer by end pieces, wherein the end pieces engage through the compound into a recess or opening in the spacer located behind the compound.
86. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 85, wherein the recess or opening in the spacer is closely adapted to the width of the end piece at least in a direction transverse to the long direction of the section bar.
87. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the outside of the spacer ends flush with the edge of the glass panes.
88. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 87, wherein the outside of the spacer comprises projections projecting on both sides beyond the flanks of the spacer and covering the edge of the two glass panes.
89. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 87, wherein the secondary sealing compound extends up to the area between the projections of the spacer and the edge of the glass panes.
90. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 66, wherein the spacer comprises corners that are formed by bending of the section bar.

91. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 90, wherein the section bar is provided, at one corner of the frame-shaped spacer, with at least one recess that extends over the entire width of the section bar.
92. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 91, wherein at least one recess is provided on the outside.
93. (new) The insulating glass panel as defined in Claim 91, wherein two recesses delimit two projections at the corner, which projections engage each other after bending and lock the legs of the spacer, joining each other at the corner, at a definite angle.
94. (new) Method of producing an insulating glass panel in which two separate glass panes are kept at a distance by a spacer formed from a hollow section bar, which has an inner surface, an outer surface and two flanks, a drying agent is provided in combination with the spacer, and a gap is provided on both sides of the spacer between the spacer and the two glass panes which gap is sealed by a primary sealing compound that adheres to the spacer and to the glass panes, a compound, which contains a drying agent, is arranged beside the primary sealing compound that seals the two gaps, on the side of the spacer, hereinafter also described as the inside, that faces the inner surface of the insulating glass panel, comprising the steps of:
- (a) Providing a section bar having a hollow cross-section;
 - (b) applying a compound containing a drying agent, on the section bar, on the side of the spacer which later forms the inside of the spacer and applying a primary sealing compound on the flanks of the section bar so that the primary sealing compound, and the compound containing the drying agent are arranged one adjoining the other and the compound containing the drying agent comes to cover the inside of the spacer to the extent it is not covered by the primary sealing compound;
 - (c) forming the coated section bar into the shape of a frame-like structure;
 - (d) closing the frame-like structure to form a spacer by joining the ends of the section bar one to the other;

- (e) applying the spacer to the first glass pane so that it adheres to the pane in the neighborhood of the edge of the first glass pane;
- (f) applying a second glass pane to the spacer in parallel to the first glass pane so that the spacer adheres to the second glass pane as well;
- (g) compressing the two glass panes to the thickness predetermined for the insulating glass panel;
- (h) bonding, if necessary, the spacer to the two glass panes by application of a secondary sealing compound,
wherein the order in succession of the operations of applying the primary sealing compound and of the compound containing the drying agent may be exchanged or the primary sealing compound and the compound containing the drying agent may be applied simultaneously or in time-overlapping fashion.

95. (new) The method as defined in Claim 94, wherein a first rope of the secondary sealing compound is applied between the spacer and the glass pane and a second rope of the secondary sealing compound, separate from the first rope, is applied between the spacer and the second glass pane.

96. (new) Method of producing an insulating glass panel in which two separate glass panes are kept at a distance by a spacer formed from a hollow section bar, which has an inner surface, an outer surface and two flanks, a drying agent is provided in combination with the spacer, and a gap is provided on both sides of the spacer between the spacer and the two glass panes which gap is sealed by a primary sealing compound that adheres to the spacer and to the glass panes, a compound, which contains a drying agent, is arranged beside the primary sealing compound that seals the two gaps, on the side of the spacer (hereinafter also described as the inside) that faces the inner surface of the insulating glass panel, comprising the steps of:

- (a) Providing a section bar having a hollow cross-section;
- (b1) applying a compound containing a drying agent on the section bar, on the side of the spacer which later forms the inside of the spacer and applying a primary sealing compound, on the flanks of the section bar so that the primary sealing compound, and the compound containing the drying agent are arranged one adjoining the other and the compound containing the drying

- agent comes to cover the inside of the spacer to the extent it is not covered by the primary sealing compound;
- (b2) applying a secondary sealing compound on the flanks of the section bar;
 - (c) forming the coated section bar into the shape of a frame-like structure;
 - (d) closing the frame-like structure to form a spacer by joining the ends of the section bar one to the other;
 - (e) applying the spacer to the first glass pane so that it adheres to the pane in the neighborhood of the edge of the first glass pane;
 - (f) applying a second glass pane to the spacer in parallel to the first glass pane so that the spacer adheres to the second glass pane as well;
 - (g) compressing the two glass panes to the thickness predetermined for the insulating glass panel;
- wherein the order in succession of the operations of applying the primary and the secondary sealing compounds and of the compound containing the drying agent may be exchanged or the application operations may be carried out simultaneously or in time-overlapping fashion.

97. (new) Method of producing an insulating glass panel in which two glass panes are firmly bonded one to the other and are sealed by at least one sealing compound, with a frame-like spacer positioned between them, comprising the steps of:

- (a) Producing a frame-like spacer from one or more hollow-section bars having a base, two flanks projecting from the base and one side which later faces the inner space of the insulating glass panel;
 - (b) applying a rope of a compound containing a drying agent upon the side which later faces the inner space of the insulating glass panel;
 - (c) applying the whole at least one sealing compound on the flanks of the one or more hollow-section bars of the spacer; and
 - (d) bonding the spacer to the two glass panes,
- wherein the order in succession of the steps (a), (b) and (c) may be exchanged.

98. (new) Method of producing an insulating glass panel in which two glass panes are firmly bonded one to the other and are sealed by at least one sealing

compound, with a frame-like spacer positioned between them, comprising the steps of:

- (a) Providing one or more hollow-section bars having a base, two flanks projecting from the base and one side which later faces the inner space of the insulating glass panel, in linear arrangement;
 - (b) applying a rope of a compound containing a drying agent upon the side which later faces the inner space of the insulating glass panel;
 - (c) applying at least one sealing compound on the flanks of the one or more hollow-section bars;
 - (d) producing a frame-like spacer from the one or more coated hollow-section bars; and
 - (d) bonding the spacer to the two glass panes,
- wherein the order in succession of the steps (b) and (c) may be exchanged.

99. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein a hollow-section bar having a box-shaped hollow cross-section is used.

100. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein a spacer is used which consists of a plastic material at least in part.

101. (new) The method as defined in Claim 40, wherein the spacer is formed from one or more section bars extruded from a plastic material.

102. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the compound, in which the drying agent is embedded, consists of a plastic material with bonding properties.

103. (new) The method as defined in Claim 42, wherein the compound in which the drying agent is embedded consists of a thermoplastic material.

104. (new) The method as defined in Claim 42, wherein the compound in which the drying agent is embedded consists of a foamed material.

105. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the compound containing the drying agent consists of a sealing compound which efficiently prevents

water vapor from penetrating into the inner space of the insulating glass panel, and which is formulated preferably on the basis of polyisobutylene or other primary sealing compounds usual for insulating glass panels.

106. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the primary sealing compound applied to the flanks contains a drying agent.
107. (new) The method as defined in Claim 46, wherein the primary sealing compound applied to the flanks contains a drying agent in a concentration lower than the compound applied on the side of the spacer which later becomes the inside.
108. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the primary sealing compound and/or the compound containing the drying agent contains a setting component.
109. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the secondary sealing compound is applied adjacent the primary sealing compound.
110. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the secondary sealing compound is applied following the primary sealing compound, but in time-overlapping relationship, or is applied simultaneously with the primary sealing compound.
111. (new) The method as defined in Claim 49, wherein the primary sealing compound and the secondary sealing compound are so applied that they project the farthest from the flanks at the places where they are in contact one with the other.
112. (new) The method as defined in Claim 50, wherein the primary sealing compound and the secondary sealing compound are so applied that the primary sealing compound will project over the secondary sealing compound at the joint between the two compounds, or is applied at that joint with the same thickness as the secondary sealing compound.

113. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein if desired the section bar is subjected to a cutting operation prior to being coated.
114. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the section bar is coated using a nozzle, the orifice of which, which may be subdivided if desired, covers the inside of the section bar and at least an adjacent strip of its flanks.
115. (new) The method as defined in Claim 54, wherein a nozzle is used which is adjustable in width.
116. (new) The method as defined in Claim 54, wherein the compound containing the drying agent and the primary sealing compound are combined in the nozzle.
117. (new) The method as defined in Claim 56, wherein the primary and the secondary sealing compounds are likewise combined in the nozzle.
118. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the ends of the section bar are coated only after they have been connected one with the other.
119. (new) The method as defined in Claim 58, wherein a wedge-shaped or groove-shaped recess, extending transversely to the long direction of the section bar, is provided and is subsequently sealed at the joint of the section bar on the side facing the inside.
120. (new) The method as defined in Claim 58, wherein the joint is covered with a badge on the side of the section bar facing the inside.
121. (new) The method as defined in Claim 60, wherein the badge is provided on its lower face with one or more extensions that are pressed into the compound containing the drying agent.
122. (new) The method as defined in Claim 61, wherein the extensions are pushed down into a recess or an opening in the section bar which is covered by the compound containing the drying agent.

123. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38 of producing an insulating glass panel in which at least one cross bar is fitted, where an end piece of the cross bar engages a recess or an opening on the inside of the spacer, wherein the point where the cross bar is to be fitted, is marked on the section bar or on the compound containing the drying agent applied to the inside, and that an end piece is introduced at the marked point through the compound and into the recess or the opening of the spacer located underneath the compound.
124. (new) The method as defined in Claim 38, wherein the compound selected as primary sealing compound is one which is particularly well suited for sealing the insulating glass panel from penetrating water vapor, especially one consisting of a thermoplastic polyisobutylene.
125. (new) The method as defined in 38, wherein the compound selected as secondary sealing compound is one which is particularly well suited for bonding the glass panes durably and firmly, especially a curable plastic material, for example a polyurethane or a Thiokol (polysulfide), a reactive polyisobutylene, a silicon resin or a hot-melt.